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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Thomas P. Branch :
Application No. 10/720,023 : ON PETITION
Filed: November 19, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. 45011-271086 :

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed April 8, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 365(c) and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **Granted**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application was filed on November 19, 2003 and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an

amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(iii) and 1.78(a)(5)(iii).

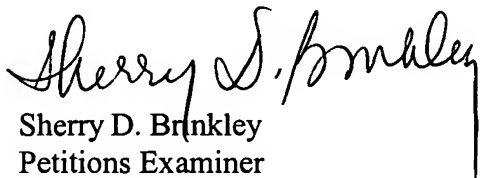
Additionally, intermediate international application PCT/US99/18074 was filed within twelve months of provisional Application Nos. 60/096,105, 60/096,104 and 60/095,952, which were filed on August 20, 1998, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). See 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and § 119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and § 119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to the prior-filed applications is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Sherry D. Brinkley at (703) 305-9220.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 3743 for examination in due course, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications, and for consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications.



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